GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2615
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Zika Virus
Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that India is a potential hotspot for Zika;

(b) whether it is also true that the disease has been linked to a potentially fatal disorder known as the gillian barre syndrome and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in India every year 80 per cent of people infected are not showing symptoms and the risk to babies in the womb is very high; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Zika virus disease is an emerging viral disease transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes mosquito. The mosquito that transmits Zika virus is widely prevalent in India.

(b): Out of 61 countries, territories/subnational areas that have reported ongoing transmission of Zika virus disease from 2015 onwards, 23 countries/territories have reported an increased incidence of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS).

(c): Only one in every five persons infected with Zika virus disease are symptomatic. So far only one case of laboratory positive zika virus disease has been detected in Ahmedabad, India as part of routine laboratory surveillance in January, 2017. Required containment measures were taken up as part of protocol and intensified detailed surveillance both in humans and mosquitoes in and around Ahmedabad and Gujarat did not show any further positive cases.

Out of 61 countries, territories/subnational areas that have reported ongoing transmission of Zika virus disease from 2015 onwards, 31 countries/territories have reported microcephaly and CNS malformation among new-born babies.
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(d): Government of India has taken adequate measures to prevent/control Zika virus disease outbreak. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been regularly reviewing the preventive measures against Zika virus. An action plan has been prepared to manage Zika virus disease and shared with all the States/UTs. The representative of the State Governments/UTs have been briefed on the action plan. Advisories have been issued to the States for intensification of vector control measures. Guidelines for integrated vector management for control of Aedes mosquito, the vector for Zika, have been issued. All these documents have also been made available on the website of the Ministry.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has sensitized its State and District Rapid Response Teams. National Centre for Disease Control has been identified as the nodal agency for investigation of outbreak. All the International Airports and Sea Ports have displayed signages for providing information to travellers on Zika Virus Disease. 23 laboratories have been identified and strengthened to test Zika Virus Disease. The ICMR network of laboratories are testing pre-determined clinical samples from fever cases that have been found negative for Dengue and Chikungunya fever. ICMR laboratories are also testing Aedes mosquitoes for the presence of Zika Virus. Child Health Division under National Health Mission is monitoring microcephaly cases through 55 identified sentinel sites. Central Health Education Bureau in Directorate General of Health Services has evolved risk communication strategy. A travel advisory has been issued. National Blood Transfusion Council has re-issued its guidelines for blood donation by those who had travelled to Zika affected countries. A 24x7 control room is functioning from Directorate General of Health Services. The situation is being monitored on regular basis.

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